

**Testimony before the Education Committee - March 2, 2016**  
**In support of**  
**SB112 An Act Providing Child Care for Assistance Recipients**  
**Enrolled in Approved Higher Education**

Good Afternoon Senator Slossberg, Representative Fleishman and Members of the Education Committee:

I am here today in support of SB112. My name is Jasia Flowers. I am a taxpayer and mother from Hartford CT and I am speaking on behalf of low-income and working poor parents in the Hartford area.

This bill will change lives for many parents and children. For the families who are trying to gain economic success and financial stability, it's not just paper. SB112 translated into action runs into bumps when a parent needs services to achieve higher education.

What happens is, parents go to a social service and relays their desires to attain a degree. Usually it's a single-parent household running on one income and seeking additional services such as healthcare, SNAP or TANF. Automatically a barrier goes up and a dream is delayed, a home is still struggling and a child's future is put on hold while the parent tries to rack their finances, resources and brain to provide quality childcare.

I have received my CNA certificate with the support of the Care for Kids Program and was able to place my child in a NAEYC accredited daycare while I finished my schooling. But now, as I seek services to become a social worker and business owner, I've hit an unintended wall. I could wait until my daughter is 12 years old to go back to school, she'll be of age to stay home alone and would be less worry on me. That's 5 years from now. With the changes suggested in SB112, I would've finished my bachelor's degree and been preparing myself to start a Master's program. I would have made a solid career change resulting in a working salary pay increasing - my tax bracket would be higher and I'd be entering middle-class status.

SB112 is fundamental to families and to the agencies that provide services to them. It opens doors that were closed and gives a sense of hope to a parent who otherwise would be in conundrum of wanting to better themselves for their family or making the conscious decision to put their progress on hold to pay rent in a building they don't own.

Thank you. I'd be happy to answer any questions you have.

Jasia Flowers  
980 Broad St, Apt 2N  
Hartford CT, 06106  
[jasiaflowers@gmail.com](mailto:jasiaflowers@gmail.com)